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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/694,883	10/29/2003	Nobuyuki Akai	OGA-208-USAP	4096
28892	7590	05/04/2005	EXAMINER	
SNIDER & ASSOCIATES P. O. BOX 27613 WASHINGTON, DC 20038-7613			SMITH, PHILIP ROBERT	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3739

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/694,883

Applicant(s)

AKAI, NOBUYUKI

Examiner

Philip R Smith

Art Unit

3739

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/29/2003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

[01] The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show an "angle ring," a "sheath," or a "metal frame" as described in the claims. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

[02] The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-3 & 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The “metal member as the sheath” which is “composed of a ring-like metal member including an angle ring in an insertion section, a metal frame in an operation section, and a ring-like metal member in a cable section” lacks basis in the specification in terms of both written description and appearance in the drawings. The terms “processor device housing ground processor device” and “angle ring” are unconventional and indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

[03] The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

[04] Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsuji et al (6,319,197).

[05] *With regard to claims 4-6:* Tsuji discloses an electronic endoscope apparatus comprising a scope ("electronic scope 2," column 3/52+) in which a solid image pickup element ("CCD 19," column 4/15-18) is mounted and in which a metal member is provided as a sheath (comprising "respective shield cover lines 84a,84b,84c," 8/11-17) and a processor device to which the scope is connected which executes signal processing (comprising "secondary circuit 35," 12/12-17). Tsuji discloses that a static-electricity-suppressing part ("lead wires to a lug 85" and "conductor 83," 8/15-17) is provided between the sheath metal member of said scope and a ground terminal in the scope-side connector circuit section (GND of the patient circuit 30," 8/8-24).

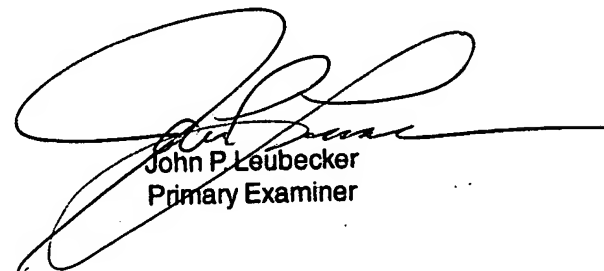
[06] Tsuji discloses a metal member provided as a sheath which comprises the structures "respective shield cover lines 84a,84b,84c," as disclosed above. In addition, metal member provided as a sheath is disclosed as comprising "individual shield cover wires of the transmission lines 21a, 21b," which extend continuously through the insertion section "electronic scope 2"), operation section ("manipulation unit 9"), and cable section ("universal cable 11") of Tsuji's endoscope.

[07] *With regard to claims 1-3:* Tsuji additionally discloses a static-electricity-suppressing part ("capacitor C2," 8/25-40) provided between the sheath metal member of said scope (comprising "shield cover wires 21a-1, 21b-1, and 47-1," "metal sheath frame of the connector receiver 22," column 6/48-50; "shield gasket 61," "individual shield cover wires of the transmission lines 21a, 21b [which extend through cable 23]," "metal cylinder 72," "shield gasket 62," column 7/30-35) and said processor device housing ground ("chassis 86") via a shield box ("metal frame 82"). Fig. 8 is especially instructive with regard to the fitting of "shield gasket 62" to "metal frame 82."

Conclusion

- [08] The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Uehera (4,868,647) discloses an electronic endoscope which is separately grounded from its circuitry. Takami (6,348,035) discloses a detachable connection for an electronic endoscope.
- [09] Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip R Smith whose telephone number is (571) 272 6087. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00-6:00.
- [10] If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda Dvorak can be reached on (571) 272 4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.
- [11] Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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John P. Leubecker
Primary Examiner